

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-5 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being independent.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the Office Action that claims 1-3 are allowed.

***Specification***

The Examiner objected to the specification. Applicants submit herewith a Substitute Specification, in an effort to place the specification into proper format for U.S. practice. Applicants respectfully submit that no new subject matter has been added.

***Claim Objections***

The Examiner objected to claims 4 and 5 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should not be dependent on another multiple dependent claim.

On January 22, 2001, Applicants submitted a Preliminary Amendment, in which the multiple dependencies of claims 3 and 4 were removed. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 4 are not multiple dependent claims and respectfully request that the Examiner treat claims 4 and 5 on the merits.

Lastly, Applicants made some minor amendments to the claims in an effort to correct a few minor informalities. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

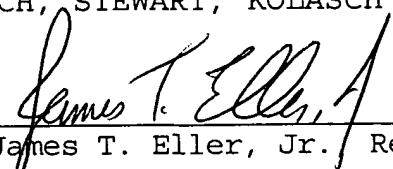
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

  
James T. Eller, Jr. Reg. No. 39,538  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

JTE/MRG:tm  
4100-0119P

Attachment: Substitute Specification and Marked-Up Version